

NEWS

From Supervisor Bill Postmus

First District, San Bernardino County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEEDLES AIRPORT RUNWAY PROJECT TAKES OFF

NEEDLES – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors took two significant steps Tuesday to rehabilitate a seriously deteriorating runway at Needles Airport. The airport is a County operated general aviation airport located approximately five miles south of Needles, California. The runway, which is 5004 feet long, is about 20 years old and has deteriorated to the point that it poses a hazard to aircraft.

The first step taken by the Board was to accept a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$1,994,376. This grant, combined with County funds budgeted for airport improvements, will provide funding for the reconstruction of Runway 11-29 and associated taxiways at the airport. In August 2003, the Board of Supervisors accepted an earlier grant from the FAA to fund initial project design and bidding services. Construction bids received on June 8, 2004 exceeded engineer estimates and it appeared that there would not be adequate funding for the project.

According to First District Supervisor Bill Postmus, “The Federal Aviation Administration stepped up with the additional funding necessary to assure that the County is able to fund the project and meet its commitment to maintain safe aviation facilities in the area.”

In a separate action, the Board of Supervisors awarded a contract to Yeager/Skanska, an Inland Empire pavement contractor, to repave the runway within the next 60 days with completion anticipated another 90 days after construction commences.